

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A device for planting a plurality of bulbs of plants having roots, the device comprising:
  - (a) a container having an exterior and including a bottom wall and a sidewall extending upward from said bottom wall and defining an opening, said bottom wall and said sidewall each formed from a plurality of elongate fibers so as to define a plurality of passageways that allows the roots of the plants to grow therethrough when the plants are planted in said container; and
  - (b) a rodent deterrent secured to at least a portion of said exterior of said container so as to not block at least some of said plurality of passageways.
2. **(Original)** A device according to claim 1, further including a closure substantially closing said opening, said closure having a plurality of apertures configured to receive therethrough the plants that sprout from the plurality of bulbs.
3. **(Original)** A device according to claim 2, wherein said closure comprises a grid.
4. **(Original)** A device according to claim 1, wherein said rodent deterrent comprises seashell fragments.
5. **(Currently Amended)** A device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~bottom wall and said sidewall each comprise~~ plurality of elongate ~~are~~ biodegradable fibers.
6. **(Currently Amended)** A device according to claim 5, wherein said elongate ~~biodegradable fibers~~ are bonded to one another with a bonding agent.
7. **(Original)** A device according to claim 6, wherein said bonding agent is latex rubber.
8. **(Original)** A device according to claim 5, wherein said elongate biodegradable fibers are coir.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A device according to claim 1, wherein said container has an interior face and the device further comprising comprises a growth-enhancer applied to at least a portion of said interior face.
10. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 9, wherein said growth-enhancer is a fungus.
11. **(Canceled)**
12. **(Currently Amended)** A system for growing a plurality of bulb plants in a cluster in a first soil, said bulb plants having a plurality of roots, comprising:
- (a) a container comprising a preformed free-standing wall and defining a cavity, said freestanding wall comprising biodegradable fibers, said container further comprising a bottom that includes biodegradable fibers defining a plurality of openings sized to allow the plurality of roots to grow therethrough;
  - (b) a second soil contained within said cavity; and
  - (c) a plurality of bulbs of plants contained within said second soil;
- wherein said container has an exterior and the system further comprises a rodent deterrent attached to said exterior so as to inhibit a rodent from gnawing through said biodegradable fibers when said container is planted in the first soil, said rodent deterrent attached to said exterior so as to not block at least some of said plurality of openings in said bottom.
13. **(Original)** A system according to claim 12, wherein said cavity has an opening and the system further includes a closure substantially closing said opening, said closure having a plurality of apertures configured to receive therethrough the plants that sprout from said plurality of bulbs.
14. **(Canceled)**
15. **(Original)** A system according to claim 12, wherein said biodegradable fibers are bonded to one another with a bonding agent.

16. **(Original)** A system according to claim 15, wherein said bonding agent is latex rubber.
17. **(Original)** A system according to claim 12, wherein said biodegradable fibers are coir.
18. **(Original)** A system according to claim 12, further comprising a growth-enhancer attached to said container for enhancing the growth of the plants sprouting from said plurality of bulbs.
19. **(Canceled)**
20. **(Currently Amended)** A container for containing soil and a plurality of bulbs of plants having roots, comprising:
- (a) a preformed freestanding wall made of a biodegradable material and defining a cavity for receiving the plurality of bulbs, said preformed freestanding wall comprising a plurality of openings for allowing the roots to grow therethrough; and
  - (b) a nutritive growth-enhancer attached to said wall for enhancing the growth of the plants sprouting from the plurality of bulbs.
21. **(Previously Presented)** A container according to claim 20, wherein said nutritive growth-enhancer is ground-up seashells.
22. **(Previously Presented)** A container according to claim 20, wherein said nutritive growth-enhancer is a fungus.
23. **(Original)** A container according to claim 20, wherein said cavity has an opening and the system further includes a closure substantially closing said opening, said closure having a plurality of apertures configured to receive therethrough the plants that sprout from the plurality of bulbs.
24. **(Currently Amended)** A method of planting a cluster of flowering bulb plants in a first soil, the plants having roots, the method comprising the step of:
- (a) providing an assembly comprising:

- (i) a container that includes a preformed freestanding wall comprising a plurality of elongate biodegradable material fibers defining a plurality of passageways extending through said preformed wall for allowing the roots of the plants to grow therethrough, said container having a cavity and an exterior;
  - (ii) a rodent deterrent attached to said exterior so as to inhibit a rodent from gnawing through said biodegradable material when said container is planted in said second soil, said rodent deterrent attached to said exterior so as to not block at least some of said passageways;
  - (iii) a first-second soil contained in said cavity; and
  - (iv) a plurality of plant bulbs planted in said first soil; and
  - (b) planting said assembly in a second-first soil;
- ~~wherein said container has an exterior and said assembly further comprises a rodent deterrent attached to said exterior so as to inhibit a rodent from gnawing through said biodegradable material when said container is planted in said second soil so as to~~  
allow the roots of the plants to grow from said second soil through at least some of said passageways and into said first soil.

25. **(Original)** A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of deterring a rodent from accessing said cavity.
26. **(Original)** A method according to claim 24, wherein said cavity has an opening and the method further comprises the step of providing a closure that deters a rodent from entering said cavity through said opening.
27. **(Original)** A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of releasing a growth enhancer from said container.

**Claims 28-32 (Canceled)**

33. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 1, wherein said rodent deterrent is distributed over substantially all of said exterior.

34. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 33, wherein said rodent deterrent is a particulate.
35. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 1, wherein said bottom wall includes an exterior surface and said rodent deterrent is distributed over substantially the entirety of said exterior surface.
36. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 1, wherein said bottom wall and said side wall are made such that a rodent can gnaw therethrough and said rodent deterrent deters the rodent from gnawing through said bottom wall and said side wall.

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